Rodomontados.

OR,

Brauadoes and Bragardiſmes.

Collected out of the *Commentaries* of the moſt Dreadfull, Terrible, and Inuincible Capitaine; *Mattamores, Crocodillo, Raiabroquelos.*

Arma virumque cano.

Printed by *W. Iaggard*, 1610.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

To my Lord *Vieillart*, Councellor to the *King*, *Treasurer of* France, *and* Generall of the Reuennues belonging *to Soissons.*

My Lord,

Stood a long while in doubt, whether I should deliuer to publick view or no, this slender impression, and vnder your fauor: because the matter appeared to me too small, in regarde of your great merit. But when I considered, that generous mindes doe alwaies receiue with gratefull acceptance, whatsoeuer is offered them in honest affection; I was excited to proceed on boldly. Wherefore, I present vnto your honour (with such respect as becommeth mee) these pleasant Castillian Rodomontados, *or brauing boastes of an humorous* Spaniard: *wherein you you shall finde nothing else, but some harmelesse iests & meriment, without iniury or wrong to any one offered. Specially not vnto* Spaniards, *whose name is no otherwise heere vsed or borrowed, then was that bragging Souldiour* Thraso *by* Terence: *vnder which might be vnderstood, an* Englishman, Scottishman, Frenchman, *or some man of any*

other Nation. And indeed I am verily perſwaded, that many men in reading this Bask, and falling into laughter: may happen to laugh and ſmile at themſelues, becauſe they may chance to finde their owne follies recorded, vnder the fable alluded to another.

Well do I know, my Lord, that you are no ſuch cenſurer as Cato, *nor yet ſo ſeuere as* Ariſtarchus, *but after you haue employed your ſpirites in great and graue affayres; you may finde ſome content in reading this trifle, as a pleaſing relaxation from former perturbances, as my ſelfe haue often made the like vſe of them.*

If the Bow ſtand alwaies bent, it wil at length become too ſlacke, and fit for no ſeruice when it is needed. After ſtormes and Tempeſts, the heauens do affoord vs faire weather; and ſuch as are ſtockt in Priſon, or chained to the Oare in a Galley, will ſometimes conſolate their afflictions, by the helpe of Songs, or pleaſant diſcourſes.

Theſe Ieſts and Braggadochio mirthes, may ſerue in the like Nature to ſuch men, who, after they haue trauailed and ſpent their ſpirits in great and ſerious matters; deſire ſome other honeſt and ſportiue recreation. And if I may perceiue, that your wonted ſweet and gentle inclination, ſhall receiue this my poor vnworthy guift (which I offer you with my moſt humble ſeruice) with good lookes, and kinde acceptance;

It wil excite me to more painefull labour heereafter, and to remaine for euer

Your moſt humble Seruant,

Iacques Gaultier.

To the Reader.

SIr, vnderstanding what curious desire you haue to attaine vnto the lofty elegancy of the *Spanish* language: I haue dared as the most hardy and coragious, that I could heare off, since the worlde was a Worlde, to aduenture on this final Summary of *Spanish Rodomontados*. And yet not without some dreade in my boldest resolue, representing vnto me this conceit, that effects are oftentimes more miraculous, and fuller of Diuinity, then of common sence or humanity.

Neuertheleſſe, the inuincible courage that I haue had, and yet do containe for your eternall seruice, hath armed me at all pointes: not with Armor onely of Musket proofe, but those sillye and light Armes beside, for the taste of Codlings or sodden Apples, to resist against the threatnings of that Sun-shaddow, which neuer yet appeared in our *France*, without being many times ecclipsed, by the sight and presence of him, who lately raigned most happily ouer the true *French*.

Rodomontados.

OR,

SPANISH Brauadoes, and Bragardiſmes.

I.

WHen I came into the Worlde, Mars entered into my ſhoulders; Hercules into my right arme; Sampſon into my left; Atlas into my legges; Mercury into my head; Venus into myne eyes; Cupid into my countenance; Nero into my heart, and Iupiter into all my body. So that by the very aboundance of my power: when I walk I make the earth to tremble, heaven to look fearfull, the winds to ceaſe, the Sea to become calm, women great with childe to deliuer abortiues, men to flye amazedly heere and there. And when of greateſt valour, and highest courage, beholding

but my presence, say all with one voyce, Libera nos Domine.

II.

I Sweare by my Sword (Villaine) if I can but see thee, I will giue thee such a blowe with my Bastinado, as by the verie strength thereof, I will strike thee fiue foot down into the earth. And there shall remaine nothing of thee out of the ground, but onely thy right arme and thy heade, reserued for this especiall occasion: to take off thy hat, and do me reuerence, as I shall passe or walk along by thee.

III.

ASsuredly when I consider how highly Fortune hath indued me wth graces, I find that I want time to put all those considerations in effectuall imployment. For first, shee hath heaped such strength vpon me, giuen me an immeasurable masse of corage, & builded such a fabricke of extraordinary valor in me: that I am as a Colonie in France, a Bastillion in Spaine, a Fortresse in Italy, a Castle in England, a Cittadell in Germany, a Tower in Poland, a rocke in Armenia, a wall in Denmarke, & generally shee hath adorned me aboue all ꝑ

men

men of this worlde. For I am of a most purified & refined kinde of mettle, formed from the choycest grace of the earths entrailes, and meerely engendered of Generositie.

IIII.

I Make a Vow to Iupiter, that I am as a Man without sence, & euen halfe desperate, because I cannot instantly meet with any man that is desirous to entreat peace, or take truce with mee. All my glorie therefore shall bee, to finde out some one, vpon whom I may discharge this choller, & reuenge my spleene, since I cannot preuaile to deale with them that haue occasioned this passion in me, by reason of their cowardly & speedy flight. For this is infallible, I can neuer expresse the height of my manhood, against pouerty in power, or sillie resistance.

XIII.

I Swear by the bones of the Sun, that it is not possible for me to restraine my right arme, from striking one stroke with my Bastinado, but it is death to the endurer: except the Sunne will stay his course in the firmament, and entreat me to be more mercifull.

VI.

I Am vndoubtedly perſwaded, that there is not any thing in the world, which is able to equall the horrible, dreadfull, and furious terribility of my courage. For what created creature is there in the world, but yeildeth me honor & obeyſance? Such is my aweſull and commaunding power, that I make the earth to tremble, the Skies to looke affrighted, the Plannets to ſtand at gaze, and the rudeſt windes to bee whiſt. The Sea ſhrinkes in her head, and dare not be ſeene, or ſtir: the Beaſts that haunt the higheſt Mountaines, and thoſe that liue among the leſſer hils, are glad to ramme, and hide themſelues in their wombes, as in Dennes or caues: nay, that which is more, the Byrds which flye in the ayre, the Fiſhes that ſwim in the Sea, and men that are moſt valiant and couragious, at one very winke or turne of mine eye, they ſinke, and ſo I ſend them into their Graues or Sepulchres.

VII.

GO, run to my Cooke, commaund him from me, that forthwith he ſpit and lay downe to the fire, a dozen & a halfe of my great Can-

nons

nons or Ordinance, and to larde them with infinite Truncheons of Speares, Pikes, and Halberds, broken by mine owne arme, in so many seuerall fights, when none in the world (except my selfe) was able to depart thence conquerour. Bid him also to dresse some two or three Dozen of Muskets, and make me a Sallet or two, of Petronilles or Pistolles, strewed about with Bullets, instead of Oliues and Capers. Then, let whosoeuer dare, come suppe with mee: for these are the Vyands, whereon I am vsually accustomed to feede.

VIII.

I Am King of all the Paladines, the terrour of the world, the Flower of Nobility, among all the Rodomants, Rowlands, and Reynards; endued with infinite speciall graces: Goodly, like an Angell: I haue the heart and courage of Lucifer: I am Seruant to the choycest Ladyes of Beautie, and Prince or Soueraigne of the compasse of Amaracoes.

IX.

VPon a certaine day, it was my hap to meete in Battaile the Queen of the Amazons, who

aduancing her arme, was in good hope to haue slaine me with her warlicke Sword. But I (neuer admitting the least losse of time) at one blowe smote her downe to the ground, and then catching her by the haire, I threwe her with such violent fury vp into the ayre, that shee neuer stayed, but went on so farre as the fift heauen: where she fell vpon Mars (who was playing at the Saunt with Venus) and shrewdly brake his heade. Venus being thereat not a little affrighted, cryed out for helpe and succour, and at her cry, al the Gods ranne immediately to her: where they were extraordinarily amazed, to see Mars lye along in such gastlie manner. But Iupiter putting his heade out at the Windowe, and seeing mee laye such stroakes still on mine Enemies, my corage and choller holding on so furiously, that the Fyre sparckled about the Field, as if it had beene another Mount Gibell or Ætna: hee forthwith sayde to all the other Goddes: See that you stirre not, neither make any noise, for hee that hath already slaine Mars; is able and sufficient of himselfe, to kill as many Goddes as remaine aliue, or dare vse any resistance against him.

X.

I know not what kind of death I shoulde deuise or make choyse of, for the punnishment of two villaines, that eyed me this day in the Street af-

ter

ter a base & seruile maner. I desire to looke ouer mine Index or Repertory, where I haue set down with mine owne hand, seauen hundred, sixty, and fiue seuerall kindes of slaughter, to see which of them may be by me best likt and allowed. For indeed, those which now adaies I would customarily vse, and haue as an extraordinary exercise in my hand: I could wish, that they might be blows without bloud, slashes of the sword, yeilding no purple sluces, but as if my weapons edge were Lead, or the reuerses onely industrious, agile, and subtle. For my other kinde of fight, I finde and confesse it to be too dreadful and fatall: because I neuer stab, but it is quite through, the very fall of my Sword makes an huge wide wound; my Estoccado is ouer dangerous, and the least stroake mortall. Therefore I am oftentimes (in meere mercy) compelled to bestowe some few blowes vp my Bastinado; to the end, that I may giue rest to my weapon, and let it reioyce a little in the Scabbarde.

XI.

LOoke to your selues, my Lordes, retire or withdraw a litle out of the way, vntil I haue put on my Cape or Cloake: because the verie winde thereof, is sufficient, to send you suddenlie aboue fiftie leagues hence, beyond the Pyrenean Mountaines.

XII.

IF my Sword could speak, and tell what it daily doth, time were not able to alow it discourse. Who coulde else, more people all the Churchyards in the world, then he hath done: who hath made richer Chirurgions euery where, then hee hath done: Who could, or can make the Armorers to haue more toyle and continuall trouble, then he hath done, and daily so endureth: What can cut through more armors of proofe, then it doth: Who more scoffes or scornes the Bucklers of Barcelona, or carues through the curious Helmets of Calataynd, then it doth: As for ỹ Casks of Almazen, it cuts through as easily, as if they were all made of Muske-Mellons.

XIII.

IT is now full twenty yeares, since this sword hath bin my feeder and maintainer: For, thereby am I feared of men, and beloued of women.

XIIII.

IT hath bin told me, that the great Turk commits many murders, and that he cuts off mens armes and legs. But by the life of my dead Fathers bones, if I go to him, that courage will bee cold, and quickely forsake him. For I shal no sooner appeare in his presence, but he must presently strike himselfe dead with his owne hand, for feare least he should fall into mine.

XV.

WIth one word only, I can penetrate and strike downe to hell, and with my verie presence, I am able to subdue the whole world, euen from the East vnto the West, spoyling, defacing, and tearing all men & other matters in pieces, that shal dare to oppose themselues in my way. For it is vniuersally knowne what I am: That my Bedsted is built with the ribs of Gyants; the Ticke or Bed it selfe, is stufte with the Monstachios of the chiefe Commanders in the great Turkes Campe, and the Bolsters with the braines, which by verie boxes on the eares, I haue beaten out of his best Captaines heads. My Sheetes are wouen of the fayrest lockes of the Amazones; my Couerings, of the Switzers beards, and my Curtaines of the soft downe of the Eye-Browes of the Hungarians and Germaines: The Walles of my lodging is constructed of diuers partes, not onely of Tasckes or Helmes, but of

of whole heads enclosed in them, carrying plumes and penvents of the Queene of England, who (being deade) I haue frighted in her Graue with my formidable Bilbo, for terrifieng mee in the terrible yeare of eighty eight. The Floore of my house (instead of Playster of Paris) is artificially compounded of Ianissaries Teeth: The Tapistrie or Hangings, are Skinnes of Arabes and Sorcerers, flayed off with the verie poynt of my Dagger: And the Tyles or Slates which couer my House, are the Nayles of Monarches and Kinges, whose bodies I haue long since (in despight both of them and their Corps du Guard) sent in Slices of a foote long, into their Graues.

XVI.

SCorning (in mine Person) to drawe my dreaded Swoorde, against a single braue English Captayne: I gaue him such a kicke with my foote, that he mounted, and smote his heade against the Sunne, with such violent strength, that it continued ecclipsed for the space of fifteene dayes together. And then, within a while after, the Captayne went and fell vpon his knees before Iupiter, entreating him to pardon mee my Sinnes, in recompence of the good deede that I had done, that with a spurne of my foote,

I had placed him among the Starres, whereas (contrary-wise) I might haue cast him downe into Hell, among the Wicked and Damned Soules.

XVII.

WIth one hayre of this Mouſtachio which I carelesſely cast away, I will make ſuch a wide ouerture or breach through thy Bodye, as all the Spaniſh Infanterie, and the French Cauallery, ſhall paſſe along eaſilie through, without any touch, eyther of the one ſide or other.

XVIII.

WHat matter were it, if Aſia, Europe, Affrica, the Pyrenian Mountaines, and the Alpes were all whelmed one vpon another: ſeauen Dragoons, eight Elephants, teme Tygers, two and twentie Lyons, and ſixtie fiue Bulles in fierce oppoſition: All theſe for mee to conquer and make peace-able, were a matter of nothing.

Miſtris

XIX.

MIstresse of my heart, command me some ser=uice becomming my vocation; for I sweare by the greatest Tooth of Cerberus, to giue defiance (for your sake) to ten men together: and though there should come twice as manie more, yet I stand resolued, not to flye, but to resist them all. Commaund me to kill one, two, three, foure, fifty or sixty persons, to hewe off legges, armes, noses, or the faces of any whosoeuer, as dare pre=sume to equall themselues with you. For such of=fices are easier to be by me performed, then at any time by you they can be commanded.

XX.

WIth this most re=doubted and terrifying Sword, I ruinate, I destroy, and set all thinges on fire: Ouer-throwing whole Armies, breaking downe cities, racing castels, leuelling Trenches, battering walles, and shaking in shi=uers inexpugnable Fortresses. For, at my verye sight or presence, I make Iupiter to run and hide his heade; Mercury flyes like a Schoole=Boy; Cupid quakes and trembles; and Mars he stands in amaze, as if hee were transformed, rendering

ouer

ouer his tribute from Venus to me, because she affects me, as her much more amorous Seruant.

XXI.

IN what place soeuer I am, Death is alwayes with me, because he gets more profit by me, thē if he were in the middest of the most furious and bloudiest battailes in the whole world. Hee hath bin my continuall companion and follower, in conquest of ỹ kingdoms of the Grimeans, Diceans, Dinameans, Alopitians, Pitunians and Espinomeans. For to speak nothing but the naked truth, without him, I had walked alone night & day: because I can find no other more familiar resemblance to my selfe, or one that can be so pleasing to me.

XXII.

I Finde in my selfe the Nature of the Basilicke, and (indeede) something of greater power. For if he with his sight can kill one after one, when I looke vppon men in my spleene and choller, I make them to fall downe by ten and ten, euen as if mine eyes were the Balles of your greatest Artillerie.

XXIII.

I Am too olde to endure any Trauaile, and yet but young to all valiant and aduenturous sufferance: For from the time that I was in my Cradle, Venus made it her daily custome, in stead of Milke to feede me with fire, and for fruite and sweet meats, I swallowed leaden Bullets, and Balles of Brasse.

XXIIII.

LIke as the Worlde is deuided into foure parts, whereof three are Asia, Affrica, and Europe, and these three are circkled or round engirt with the Sea: Euen so is my heart deuided into three other parts, which doe containe three seuerall Natures, to wit; affable, terrible, and cruell. Now these three partes are rounde enuironed, yet not with Water, but with liuing flames of hot consuming fire. And as this fyre (in Loues behalfe) is so sweete, as much better for mee were it, if it were sower or bitter, because I cannot captiuate the poyson which is in my heart, euen so in the same manner is my heart it selfe. And yet with three stroakes of this bright brandished blade, the one deliuered slycing, the

second

second reuerſing, and the thirde meerelie poynting: I could kill and ouer-quell all man-kinde, making Riuers of blood longer then Ganges, larger then Poe, and more terrible then Nylus. But let the Worlde bee thankefull for it, that at this inſtant I am become amorous, or faine in Loue, for in my former fierie and ouer-fierce humour: I vſed to kill dayly (at the leaſt) three or foure dozen of Men, Women, and Children. But now, in this more milde and temperate alteration, I vſe not to kill paſt a dozen in a day. And what doe you thinke may bee the reaſon thereof? Let me tell yee for an infallibletrueth, it is nothing elſe, but the meere loue or Cupidicall affection, wherewith I haue chaunged my furious humor, and proſtrated it in demure Deuotion, to the eternall ſeruice of my daintie and moſt Diuine Miſtris.

XXV.

My Shoo-maker one Morning pulling on my ſhoes, I found one of them ſomewhat too ſtrait in the inſteppe, I gaue him ſuch a kicke with my foote againſt the ground, that the earth immediately opened, and he fell in as farre as Hell. Belzebub, Sathan, Pluto, and Barrabas, Lordes and Princes of thoſe Tenebrous

obſcuri-

obscurities, were thereat driuen all into no meane amazement. Great Cerberus cryed and howled most pittifully: Proserpina rent and toze hir haire, shrieking and weeping verie bitterly, because she saw her darke kingdom receiue a glimpse of light. The little Diabolotinos or lesser Spirits, hidde themselues in corners heere and there. Some leapt out of hell, and fled fearefully thence, & since that time, many of them haue houered aloft in the Ayre, and others in nookes and crannies of the earth, tormenting diuers people, as in many places of the world it is daily noted.

XXVI.

WHat woman dare be so bold or audacious, as not to confesse her selfe most highly inamored of this strong thigh, this puissant arme, this breast ful of al force and valour; this visage, more goodly then that of Ganimede, or that of Dido, or the lookes of Absolon? Let me but see that blushlesse hul wife, and then bid her abide the fury of my indignation, if she can or dare.

XXVII.

LAdie, you may (by good right) forsake the Name of Madame Beatrix, and entitle your selfe

selfhence forward, Imperatrix or Empresse, Queen, Princesse, Marquesse, Countesse, Dame, and Damosil: Seeing these two great Colombs or Pillers of Hercules, which do support and sustain the whole world, are soly obliged to your seruice. I could tel ye, that this Castillian body, is filled with the abounding courage of infinite Armies; that this brest and this arme is stronger then the Tower of Babylon: Especially, when it is assisted by this redoubted Swoorde, for the fires sparkeling from it, do penetrate, & surmount in bright splendour, the luminous beames of the Sun.

XXVIII.

IF mine infinite couragious valour, could possibly be bought with the price of Gold or Siluer, there needed no other trafficke either by Sea or Land, nor shoulde you heare any more speech of Merchants or Merchandize, or of any man that would labour or addict himselfe to followe such a fruitlesse vocation. Because all men woulde procure to imploy their industry, to get the strength but of one of mine armes, of a legge, of a finger, of my nailes pairing, of an haire frō mine eie-brow, or the very smallest from my head or beard, which onely might suffice to make them valiant, & (then valour) what can be of greater price or estimation? But it is my ioy and comfort, that it cannot be compassed, and I am the rather therwith con-

tented, in regard of the peace and quiet of al those Kings, Monarks, and Princes, that hold friendship with me.

XXIX.

My Maquerella, that old bawd Fortune gaue me her word, that I should enioy the Lady, of whom I am so highly amorous. But if she keepe not promise with mee, I sweare by the hornes of Pluto, by the Beard of Mars, by ỹ iawes of Sampson, and by the Alchoran of Mahomet, that I will take from her all her trickes, and bereaue her of her inconstant and variable wheele. As for her body, with one Estoccado, I will hurle her to Valladolid, bruised and broken into so manie peeces or small fragments, that she shall no sooner be faine downe there, but she shall be squandered into dust & power, which I will make vse of, to cast vpon those letters, that by me shall bee daily sent to my sweet Mistris.

XXX.

I Haue more augmented & increased in the compasse of two poore daies only, the Stigian Kingdom of grim-faced Pluto, & peopled his darke & smoaky Hal with subiects, then either Rodomont, Orlando,

Orlando, Reynard of Moutauban, Mandricard, or Radamanth, with all their powers could doo, and I haue dreadfully subiected, & humbled vpon theyr knees, in a thousand thousand other places, harts that were dauntlesse, most valiant, & of vnmatchable courage. If you require any witnesse or testimony heerof, send to all the inhabited Countries of the East, west, North and South, and perusing their Chronicles, do but note [illegible]at you finde written in them all, of my vertue and valour.

XXXI.

The great Turk is more afeard of my valiant resolution, which this vnconquereable Arme hath deerly made known vnto him, then of ten armies or main battalions ioynd together. Because I being one day in ỹ war of the Venetians, against the fore-named great Turk, I gaue such a box on the eare to Abenhamet, great maister of his Camp, ỹ I smote his heade quite from his shoulders: & presently, with another spurn, I kickt it into *Constantinople*, where it deliuered the tidings of the foil and losse of all the army. But when the Graunde Signeur himselfe, & al the rest there present w̃ him, beheld the head without a body, they fled foorthwith into their houses, making their doores very fast vpon them, & continued in such feare, as in 6. years after they durst not peep abroad, through ỹ dread they stood in of me: til at length, I putting

on an humor of more milde temper, and falling into my woonted magnificence, gaue them free leaue to enioy their liberty, and to walk about the streets, as in former times they had done.

XXXII.

WHen I walke along through the streetes of the Citty, a thousand Ladies present thẽselues before me. One puls me by the Cloake, another winkes with her eye at me, another prayes me to sup with her, another offers me presents, another kisses my hand, and blesseth the Mother that bare me, accounting her selfe to bee most happy if she could compasse but one Nights lodging with me: To no other end, but onely to haue a childe sprung from the race of so great and valiant a personage, as the world well knoweth me to be.

XXXIII.

IF the strength of my members could bee imparted among disordered persons, and mutinous spirits; the world would be in an vproare, reuolt, and confusion, and nothing else were to bee seene therein, but onely battailes and conquests. The bels would ring night and day, as deliuering the interment

interment of slaughtered bodies: Surgions could neuer come foorth of their houses, for stitching vp slashes of swordes, healing Estoccadoes, setting in right shape broken armes and legges. Women would weepe for the death of their Husbands, young children for the losse of theyr Fathers, and Maids for great wrong done to their Mayden-heads, hauing lost their Louers, and in danger to die Virgins.

XXXIIII.

IT is I onely that neuer felt feare, but haue menaced the Skies, the Ayre, Earth, and Water, yea Iupiter and Hel. I could wish to warre with all the Elements: for I fear no tempests, storms, thunder or lightning. And I doubt not, but in very short time, to make my selfe Lorde of the Sea, Earth, and Hell: I will do it, and I can do it, for my forces are sufficient to performe it.

XXXV.

IF I come to thee, I will giue thee such a spurne with my foot, that it shall raise and mount thee so high, as if thou wert prouided with ten Cart load of Bread, yet shouldst thou stand more in fear of famishing, then of bruising or death, when thou fallest downe againe.

XXXVI.

OH, how I smile to my self, when I cal to mind the ignorance of the Gods, in deyfying Hercules, and giuing him a name of equall excellencie with them, calling him a God: onely because hee kild the Hydra, took the Bull by the hornes, rent the Dragon in pieces, vanquished the Lyon, surmounted the Centaure, and the wilde Boare: because hee made the Harpies fearefully flye away, slew Cethes and Achelous, foyled Diomed King of Thrace, and ouercame Gereonea Qu. of the Amazons: finally, because he erected Collombs or pillers in many places. In effect, al these things are nothing else but a meere fable, and actions of a young womanish spirit, being compared with my vnparaleld strength, fortitude, and courage. For neither the puissance of Daryus, King of the Persians, nor yet of that Alexander, entituled, styled, or epittethized, the Great; nor the strong Sampson, nor mighty Hector the Troyan, nor the valiaunt Achilles, nor the mad and furious Rowland, yclepped (by some) Orlando Furioso, nor the aduenturous Gridasso, nor the gallant Sacrapant, nor the terrible Mexican Mandricarde, nor the famous Rugiero, or French Roger, nor the horrible Agricano, or the robust Rodomont: No, not any one of them, or all assembled together, coulde or are able to equall my terrible, horrible, formi-

to

dable, fury-bond, and dreadfull force, if I please to let it appeare in my thundering humor.

XXXVII.

MIne arme quakes & trembles, at that which I am determined to doe for my Lady & Mistris: For continually I ponder how and which way to compasse her contentment, and yet I neuer attaine vnto it. All the night long I dreame that I am performing deedes of Armes (for her sake against temme men, sixe whereof, I slew outright, and of them which fled away, he that escaped with best safety and security, was gladde to leaue his left arme at my feete. But then (O you Sacred powers) how much more am I able to do in the day time, when I am awake, and at my martial exercise? Twenty men together dare not touch the string of my Shoo.

XXXVIII.

ONe day as I was playing at the Balloune, I smote it with such force, that it flew vp into ỹ third heauen, where it mounted and leapt vp before the Goddes, who were then assembled in a verie serious Counsell. They looking earnestly one vpon another, became so confounded, ỹ they sat

wide

wide gaping, and had not the power to speak one word, vntill at length their sences being restored, they thought it necessary that Iupiter shoulde descend to earth, and falling on his knees before me, forsaking both his Crowne and Scepter, should humbly offer himselfe to my seruice, Venus to bee my Shee-seruant, Mars my Lacky, and Mercurie mine Apple-Squire.

XXXIX.

AS I was one day playing with the destinies, in the presence of Time, Fortune, and Nature, vpon a difficult happening betweene vs, I was suddenly inforced to draw my sword: Time, Fortune, and Nature, being deare friends to the Destinies, stept betweene vs to take vp the matter, and make peace. But I being a Spaniard, set my right foote formost, and gaue therewith such a spurne to Time, that I cast him betweene heauen and earth, and there hee hangs still houering to this instant. Fortune, I sliced hir in twain iust at her girdle, and threwe the one halfe of her there where the Sunne riseth, and the other part where he takes vp his lodging. As for Nature, with my punto reuerso, I gaue her such a deepe a incurable wound, as neither Phyſitian, Chirurgion, Barber, nor Apothecary, coulde euer since vndertake to heale it, but euery month in the year that wound breakes forth a bleeding.

XL.

I Had vpon a time a quarrel with a French Gentleman, who with despightfull words, bad me draw my sword: which I refused to do, because I perceiued the French-man to looke pale, and to be of a very chil-cold complexion. Wherefore, in meere pitty to warme his blood, and set him in an heat, I suffered him to haue some fifty Estoccadoes at mee, and as many other violent blowes: yet could he not draw blood, or had the power to hurt me. But for my selfe, I knew my choller and courage to be such, as with the very least fillip of my finger, I could haue beaten out his braines, and made him sinke to hell.

XLI.

BEing desirous, that Pluto should pay mee such ordinary tribute, as other Kings daily did and do: I tooke my iourny to hell, where I found Pluto walking at his pleasure, accompanied with fiue hundred and forty fiue Millions, & thirteene hundred ninety and six thousand Legions of Deuils, that vsually attended vpon him. So soone as he beheld me a far off, comming towards him, he came directly to meet me and yeild himselfe as

my prisoner. But I laid hand vpon my Sword, and Pluto perceiuing me to be offended, & in choller, knowing (withall) that I was a Spaniard, fled backe into the deepest partes of hell, with all his traine frightfully following him, & there made fast the gates against me. But I being come thither for better obedience, marched on gallantly step by step, as those of my nation are wont to do: and with a very sneezing of my nose, I made the gates flye open, and I entred. In a moment, I took there for my prisoners, great Sathan himselfe, the Prince Pluto, and the faire Proserpina; all whose hands I bounde fast together with a hayre of my Moustachios or beard. Neuertheless, beholding their incessant teares and lamentations, made with such out-cries and wringing of hands: I vsed the mercy and magnificencie of a Spaniard, deliuered them out of their seruile bands, and so suffered them to enioy their former liberty.

XLVII.

I will kil this Villain, his Wife, his Children, his Seruants, his Dogs, his Cats, his Pullaine, his very Lice, Nits & Fleas, or any liuing creature belonging to his house, which also I will ruinyte from the top to the foundation: though Pluto himselfe, and al the Deuils that are in hel, had solemnly vowed to saue them from my furie: And

what

what is my chiefest purpose heerein? Only to constitute such a dread and terror of me, in the hearts of men, as no one (be he neuer so bold or couragious) shal at any time hereafter dare to offend me.

XLIII.

IT was my chance (one day) to bee walking abroad, somewhat neere to the Trenches which were made at Oastend; when suddenly a Bullet, being sent from a piece of great Ordinance, fel into my mouth, shook two of my foremost teeth, without any iniury or offence vnto mee. At the instant houre, I grew to be somwhat incensed with choller, and the Bullet I took into my hand, & casting or returning it against the enemy, it happened to hit against a Tower in the wall, which immediately in an instant was driuen into small dust, and slew with the very fall thereof, about 1555. gallant Souldiers, who (by especiall appointment) were placed there as a Corps du Guard, & had the charge both of the Tower and wall.

XLIIII.

VPon a time, I would take a walke into Hell, where I found Pluto, Proserpina, & Death, all sitting at

at a Table. They were in such a fearefull astonishment, beholding me in their darkesome dwelling, that I (wel knowing their weaknes of courage) without any further delay, leaping vp with a Caper after the French fashion, with the very crowne of my Hat or Beauer, broake the roofe of hell; and mounting forth at that breach, the meere noise of my departure thence, was such, that it made the great Citty of Lisbone to tremble, and ouerturned 88. houses, in the street of Boanistre.

XLV.

BE not you offended, Mistris and Ladie of my life, neither let it seeme displeasing to you, that I am sought after, and beloued by so many Princesses & Paragons; who but wrong themselues therein, and meerely loose their labor in vain. For I beare affection to no other, but only to your self my sweetest mistris: because you are indued with beauty farre beyond Diana, with good graces and behauiour, excelling Pallas, and with sweet affability more supreme, then Venus. All these three Soueraigne Goddesses equall not you, to whome I haue freely giuen my hart, & properly chosen you as mine owne. Consider then that I loue you, and forsake not me for any other, in regard that I am more then a Gentleman. Wherefore, if you marry with me, I sweare by the faith of a Captaine, and by the life of the King my Father (for I neuer

heard

heard him called by any other name) to beget yee the first night such a regiment of Souldiours, as shall conquer all the world in a moment.

XLVI.

My selfe, Hercules, Death, & Loue, met all by chance on a day together, in a place which was appointed for Archery, and each of vs had his Bow and Arrowes there ready. Wee fell to this accord among our selues, that he who with his Arrow coulde make the greatest slaughter or execution, should beare away the amplest recompence of Honor. Hercules begaune first, and with his Arrow, he slew all the Panthers, Lyons, Tigers, Beares, Wolues: al sauage Beasts, Deere, Elephants, Camels, and Buls. Next, Loue took his shaft, and drawing it to the head, he causeth al the Gods, Gyants, Amazons, Men and Deuils; to fal and submit themselues vnder his amorous yoke (my selfe onely excepted, on whome Loue could not attaine to any power.) Death being resolued to let loose his Arrow, he killed therewith all the creatures that were vpon the earth. Wherupon, I grew into some displeasure against thē, & beeing moued in a maity of choller, to be reuenged on them; I crost mine Arrow in my Bow, determining to let it be my very last shoot, to auoyd all further quarrell and contention, but no sooner flew mine Arrow from me (being let loose indeed

with extraordinary spirit and courage) but in the very instant, I slew therewith, Hercules, Loue, and Death, and so remained the sole Conqueror.

XLVII.

I Kisse the shoo-sole of your Lady-ship, sole Mistris of my heart; Princesse of this breastes power, Dutchesse of this armes dexterity, Marquesse of my matchlesse courage, Countesse of my valors capricious conceits, Queene of my forces Quintessence, and absolute Gouernesse of me and my person.

I am constrained to spit daily on the poynt of my sword, for feare it should passe fatally on any person in your presence, or where your vertue may command my demonorance. This Epitaph is engrauen vpon his Tombe, whom I last slewe, for not being bare before you.

The Epitaph.

HEere lyeth *Martino Alphonso*, Galeone, as dead as a Mouse, who fearing to offend the only gallant man of the World, desired to bee blowne away with his breath, because his loue was out of date, and he durst no longer liue in this world.

He

XLVIII.

HE that dares but looke on mee,
From feare he neuer can be free;
Knowing my puiſſance of ſuch might,
That Death himſelfe, I kill out-right.

Alone I am, without compare,
To prooue my man-hoode, no man dare.

When I holde my Sword in hand,
Renowne and Honour I command:
From the Goddes is my deſcent,
And with them muſt my time be ſpent.

My Sword and Buckler dooth ſuffice,
Againſt a thouſand enemies:
They are as nothing in my ſight,
I make the Earth and Goddes affright.
What ere he be that dare reſiſt,
He dyes, then tarrie if he liſt.

FINIS.